



FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

July 13, 2023

Reimbursement Rates

The Keep Kids Fed Act bill increased the reimbursement rate for school lunches by 40 cents and for school breakfasts by 15 cents for the school year beginning in July 2022 and expired on June 30, 2023. Reimbursement rates effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 are now available here <https://dese.mo.gov/financial-admin-services/food-nutrition-services/reimbursement-rates>. You can see the difference in the comparison chart below.

Reimbursement Rate Comparison Chart School Year 2023-24 vs 2022-23

	23-24 SY	22-23 SY	23-24 SY	22-23 SY	23-24 SY	22-23 SY	23-24 SY	22-23 SY
National School Lunch Program	Less than 60%	Less than 60%	60% or More	60% or More	Less than 60% + 8 Cents	Less than 60% + 8 Cents	60% or More + 8 Cents	60% or More + 8 Cents
Paid	\$0.40	\$0.77	\$0.42	\$0.79	\$0.48	\$0.85	\$0.50	\$0.87
Reduced Price	\$3.85	\$3.93	\$3.87	\$3.95	\$3.93	\$4.01	\$3.95	\$4.03
Free	\$4.25	\$4.33	\$4.27	\$4.35	\$4.33	\$4.41	\$4.35	\$4.43

	23-24 SY	22-23 SY	23-24 SY	22-23 SY
School Breakfast Program	Non-Severe Need	Non-Severe Need	Severe Need	Severe Need
Paid	\$0.38	\$0.50	\$0.38	\$0.50
Reduced Price	\$1.98	\$1.96	\$2.43	\$2.37
Free	\$2.28	\$2.26	\$2.73	\$2.67

	23-24 SY	22-23 SY
After School Snack Program		
Paid	\$0.10	\$0.09
Reduced Price	\$0.58	\$0.54
Free	\$1.17	\$1.08

	23-24 SY	22-23 SY
Special Milk Program		
Paid	\$0.2625	\$0.2700
Free	Average Cost per 1/2 pint	Average Cost per 1/2 pint

2023-2024 School Nutrition Program Application Packet Information

The **School Nutrition Program (SNP) Application Packet** for the 2023-2024 school year is open and available for completion. The application is completed via the [DESE Applications Sign-in](#).

You will NOT be able to submit a claim until your application packet has been approved. A confirmation will not be sent when the packet is approved. To check on the status of the packet please log into the web application system. Packets are approved in the order received therefore the packet may not be approved immediately. If you have questions on the status of your application packet, please contact our office or your regional Nutrition Program Specialist. See the list for the [Food and Nutrition Services Contact Information](#).

The **Food Safety Inspections Report** is available within your SNP Application and this is due on September 15. This report **must** be completed prior to submitting the first claim. See the image below for instructions on how to access the report. For additional due dates please review the Food and Nutrition Services Calendar.

Please feel free to contact our office at 573-751-3526, or foodandnutritionservices@dese.mo.gov if you have questions.

Food Safety Inspections

To access the Food Safety Inspections report, click Applications in the dark blue bar then Food Safety Inspections from the list of applications.

Click Modify. Once data has been entered for each building, click Save. Click Edit to return to the Food Safety Inspection, or click Finish to return to the Application Packet.

Food and Nutrition Services



Administrative and Procurement Review Schedules for 2023-2024 SY

The review schedules for the 2023-24 School Year are now available on the [Administrative State Agency Review webpage](#), [Procurement Review Information webpage](#) and also linked below.

[Administrative Review Schedule 23-24 SY](#)

[Procurement Review Schedule 23-24 SY](#)

May Breakfast Payment Delayed

The May breakfast payment was previously delayed but the payment was issued on July 11th and should be received the first part of next week.

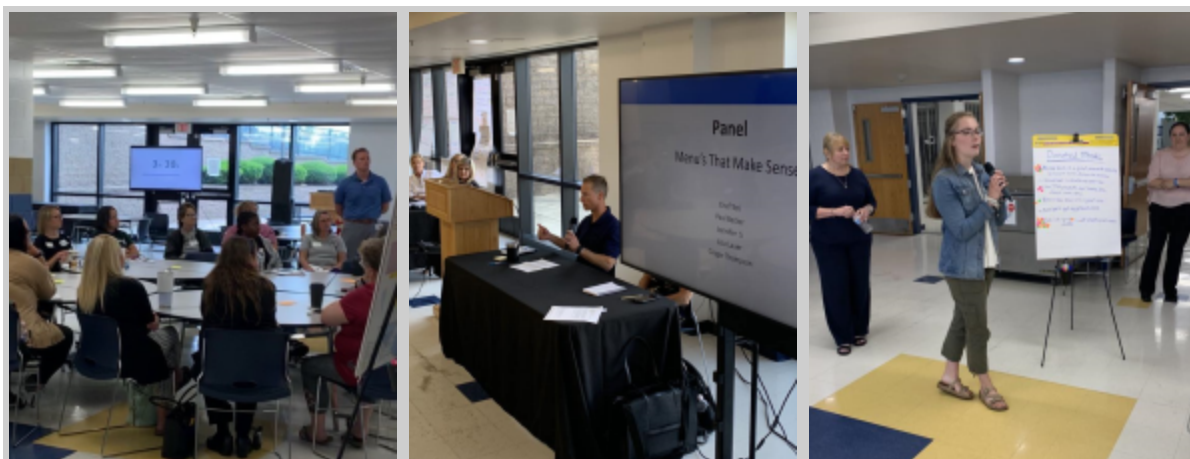
2023-2024 Special Milk Program Information

The **Special Milk Program Letter and Guidance** for the 2023-2024 school year is updated and available on our website at the bottom of the [Free and Reduced Price Information page](#).

Please feel free to contact our office at 573-751-3526, or



Summer Workshops 2023



Thank you for attending the DESE Summer workings in Wentzville on June 28th and 29th. School Nutrition Teams were able to connect and network with one another during the morning round table topics and report out best practices and big ideas. We heard from No Kid Hungry representatives on funding opportunity for eligible schools and enjoyed an amazing Olive Garden lunch. Thank you to our panel members for your participation in the *Menu's That Make Sense* panel discussion. At the top and bottom of this section are some photos taken at the Wentzville Workshops. We look forward to our next workshops in:

- ~~Wentzville, June 28 and 29~~ - **Workshop Completed**
- **Cameron, July 26**, - [CLICK HERE Summer Workshop Registration](#)
- ~~Lee's Summit, July 27~~ - **Registration is FULL**
- ~~Columbia, August 3~~ - **Registration is FULL**

The Cameron Summer Workshop will be held on July 26 at Cameron High School, 1022 S. Chestnut Street, Cameron, MO 64429.

The registration deadline for Cameron is July 17, 2023.

Training hours will be obtained to apply towards Professional Development requirements. You are invited to join our team for a day of in-person training and networking opportunity. During this summer's workshop activities, School Food Service staff will take home lots of big ideas, participate in networking opportunities, and engage in donated foods topics - we have something informative and enjoyable for all. We look forward to seeing all of you this summer!

If you cannot attend the Summer Workshops please visit our [trainings](#) page for past training videos and presentations. There are **no** virtual options for the 2023 Summer Workshops.

Helpful reminders:

- In order to attend, you must register.
- **No on-site registrations will be allowed.**
- Rooms could be cold, so remember your sweater or jacket.
- Please bring writing utensils, these will not be provided.

If you have questions concerning the summer workshops, please call Food and Nutrition Services at 573-751-3526.



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information for 2023-24 SY



Provided is the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) application [informational letter](#) for the 2023-2024 SY. This letter and instructions to completing the FFVP Application Packet are also located on the DESE, Food and Nutrition Services [homepage](#) under [News and Updates](#).

The application deadline is 4:30 p.m., Friday, July 14, 2023, and must be completed via the [Web Application System](#).

Elementary schools with 50% or more students eligible for free or reduced price meals as of October 2022 or CEP claiming percentage is above 50% can fill out the *USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable (FFVP) Application* to competitively apply to participate for the 2023-2024 school year.

Please contact Food and Nutrition Services at 573-751-7564 or 573-751-4402 if you have any questions.

FY22 Equipment Grant Additional Funding Opportunity

USDA announced an additional \$50 million in Equipment Assistance Grant funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (PL 117-2) under section §1001 (b)(4). The additional funding will support school food authorities (SFAs) in providing healthy and appealing meals by meeting vital food service equipment needs.

All LEAs may apply but priority will be based on the selection criteria factors stated under the competitive application process in the letter linked below.

- [Equipment Grant Ineligible List - Updated July 2023](#)
- [Equipment Grant Additional Funding Letter](#)
- [Equipment Grant Additional Funding Application](#)

[Click here](#) for additional Equipment Grant Information and the claim form.

The application deadline is 4:30 p.m., Friday, July 21, 2023.

P-EBT Portal

LEAs no longer have access to the P-EBT portal to submit spreadsheets for SY 21-22 and/or Summer 22 benefits. The portal can be accessed by DESE FNS staff to make necessary changes. If you have a change that needs to be made please contact our office with changes. The Department of Social Services is still working with their card vendor to get cards mailed. Cards will still be being mailed through July 18th, so please let families know to be patient. If a family calls and asks about their benefit, you should review the spreadsheet that you submitted and ensure all information that was required to be submitted was on the spreadsheet. If a birth date was not on the spreadsheet, it is highly possible the benefit is in error status due to missing information including DOB, gender and address. Our team will begin contacting schools again in August to clean up any errors. Thank you for your assistance and help getting through this.

The state of Missouri will not be applying to participate in the U.S. Government's extended response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the SY 2022-23 or summer 2023 P-EBT programs. The P-EBT benefits were originally administered as part of a temporary relief program, and as many Missouri families can attest, there have been a number of challenges throughout the process due to the federal requirements associated with accessing and administering the benefits, coupled with the limitations of our current state

and local data collection systems. Further, the SY 2022-23 and summer 2023 P-EBT federal program timelines were reduced compared to the SY 2021-2022 and summer 2022 P-EBT programs, which are still being processed at this time. Once these current P-EBT programs are completed, DESE and DSS will focus on implementing the system changes necessary to facilitate participation in summer EBT programs in future years.

USDA Foods Update

New and Updated Resources

Missouri USDA Foods Program Procedures Manual – Our Procedure Manual has been updated and can be accessed on our USDA Foods website

Commodity Calendar – To outline suggested commodity activities throughout the school year we've created a commodity calendar.

Commodity Direct Delivery (Brown Box) Tracking Tool – To assist districts in tracking their brown box foods deliveries each month, we've created a tracking tool that mirrors our USDA Foods Order Form. This tool can be downloaded and saved on your desktop, or printed if you prefer, and used as you receive your commodity orders.

The Procedure's Manual, Commodity Calendar and Tracking Tool are available under Resources on our USDA Foods website: [USDA Foods | Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(mo.gov\)](#)

Account Updates - July is a great time to make any changes that are needed to your Gold Star and DOD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Accounts.

Gold Star Account - If you have new staff members, email contacts that should be updated or a change in the delivery locations, please reach out to:

MissouriHelpDesk@GoldStarFoods.com

DOD Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Account – For districts that have diverted funds to DOD or plan to request bonus funds, please make sure account information is updated. Also, if you have added new schools or delivery sites, please contact us so those can be updated and added to your district's account.

For DOD updates contact: Madelyn.Hansen@dese.mo.gov.

Delivery Week Changes - In an effort to eliminate delivery delays, Gold Star is reworking its delivery routes for the 23/24 SY. As a result, some districts' delivery weeks will change. We will be posting revised delivery routes in the next week and Gold Star will contact districts that have a change to their delivery week.

Commodity Deliveries for 23/24 SY – In order to receive a commodity delivery, each school district must have a Gold Star Online Account and must "order" the items they requested on their USDA Foods Packet using that Gold Star Live Inventory account.

Gold Star August Commodity Orders –Commodity foods for August deliveries are now being placed in districts' Gold Star "Live Inventory" accounts. Please review your USDA Foods Packet and begin creating your Gold Star commodity order for August. Each district's monthly order must be placed by the Tuesday prior to your delivery week. Items may be added to your initial order until 2 days prior to your scheduled delivery date, by reaching out to your Gold Star Account Specialist. Any commodity items remaining in your Gold Star account from the 22/23 SY will be automatically force-shipped if you have not selected them for delivery.

Delivery Charges - DESE FNS must make changes to the way we deliver commodity items to school districts. In the past we have been able to fully cover delivery costs for public school districts, but due to price increases in fuel and labor, the funds we have to operate this program no longer cover the entire cost. Beginning in the 23/24 SY, ALL school districts will begin paying a per case delivery fee.

Tentative Cost: Non-Public Districts -\$5.63 per case, Public Districts - \$2.00 per case

Cancelled and Adjusted USDA Foods - This listing is updated for the 23/24 SY. Please reference this as you place your initial Gold Star Commodity Order. [USDA Foods |](#)

Orange Juice 110651 - This brown box item is not available for the 23/24 SY. We do have a small amount of carry-over inventory that we will distribute in August and the first weeks of September. Once that inventory is depleted we will begin sending a different orange juice 100277. This is also a frozen product but it is packaged in cases of 70 cartons versus 96 portion cups. We have calculated adjusted cases based on this difference. The adjusted number of cases for each district that ordered this product will be posted on our USDA Foods website this fall.



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